

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 NAS-01 NSF-04 EB-11 INT-08 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 RSR-01 AGR-20 PA-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1251

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: NA/ A

TAGS: TGEN, EFIS, MILI, BEXP, VS

BUSJECT: HERBICIDES: ALLEGED POISONING OF VIETNAMESE SEAFOOD
PRODUCTS BY DOIXIN

REF: A. SAIGON 7499, B. STATE 82846

1. SUMMARY: STORY BASED ON HARVARD REPORT WHICH IMPLIES THAT VIETNAMESE SHRIMP MAY BE CONTAMINATED BY HERBICIDE CHEMICAL KNOWN AS DIOXIN (REFTEL A) HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO AFFECT VIETNAM' S SHRIMP EXPORT INDUSTRY. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE CLARIFICATION OF ONE PORTION OF ITS EARLIER GUIDANCE (REFTEL B) WHICH MAY IMPLY HARMFUL EFFECTS ON HUMANS; TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING TESTS IN U. S. ON CURRENT SEAFOOD SAMPLES; AND TO SEEK PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM HARVARD PROFESSORS MESELSON AND BAUGHMAN AND/ OR OTHER AUTHORITY SOURCES PLACING FINDINGS IN PERSPECTIVE. END OF SUMMARY.
2. EMBASSY APPRECIATES GUIDANCE CONTAINED REFTEL B WHICH IS BEING PROVIDED TO APPROPRIATE GVN OFFICIALS AND JAPANESE EMBASSY.
3. NEW SOUTH SEA SHRIMP COMPANY, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR 75 PERCENT OF VIETNAM' S EXPORTS OF SHRIMP TO JAPAN, REPORTS THAT JAPANESE BUYERS HAVE SUSPENDED ORDERS FOR VIETNAMESE SEAFOOD AND THAT EVEN

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SALES OF SHRIMP ON LOCAL MARKET HAVE DECLINED. PROFESSOR HO (SEE REFTTEL A) WAS REPORTED IN MAY 4 VIETNAMESE PRESS AS STATING FLATLY HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT FISH AND SHRIMP THORNY ISSUE TO CONFRONT THE BANK SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED IN 1966 AS A REGIONAL MONEY- LENDING INSTITUTION TO HELP IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ASIA'S POOR NATIONS.

NO FORMAL OFFER

SO FAR, THE QUESTION HAS NOT COME UP FORMALLY AND WAS NOT RAISED AT THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ADB BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD IN APRIL AT THE BANK'S NEW HEADQUARTERS IN MANILA.

BUT PEKING, WHICH HAS TAKEN OVER NATIONALIST CHINA'S SEAT IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ALL ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, HAS LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT TAIWAN'S ADB MEMBERSHIP IS ONE OF ITS NEXT TARGETS.

USING THE RECENT TOKYO MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST (ECAFE) AS ITS FORUM, CHINA CALLED FOR THE EXPULSION OF TAIWAN FROM THE BANK. IT SAID IT WAS "IMPERMISSIBLE" THAT TAIWAN REMAIN A MEMBER OF ADB WHILE THE PEKING GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO ECAFE.

IT WAS ECAFE WHICH SPONSORED THE FIRST ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION WHICH EVENTUALLY LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE BANK.

TAIWAN STAYS

ADB PRESIDENT SHIRO INOUE OF JAPAN, WHILE DECLARING THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION - " POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE" - FROM PEKING ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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JOINING THE BANK, SPELLED OUT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE THE BANK'S POSITION ON TAIWAN'S TENURE.

" AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS A MEMBER OF ADB AND ACCORDING TO THE CHARTER, THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR TERMINATING MEMBERSHIP UNLESS THE MEMBER CONCERNED WITHDRAWS OR FAILS TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE BANK," INOUE SAID.

ADB VICE PRESIDENT C. S. KRISHNA MOORTHY OF INDIA, SPEAKING ON THE SAME SUBJECT, SAID " THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS CLEARLY IN. IT CANNOT BE THROWN OUT EXCEPT IN DEFAULT ... IN SO FAR AS THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS CONCERNED, IT IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP

AND
IT' S UP TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO DECIDE."

ACCORDING TO THE BANK' S CHARTER, ADMISSION OF AN ELIGIBLE MEMBER I
S
ON THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF TWO THIRDS OF ALL THE GOVERNORS - NOW
NUMBERING 40 CORRESPONDING TO THE BANK' S TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - AND
THE
VOTE MUST REPRESENT NOT LESS THAN THREE- FOURTHS OF THE TOTAL
VOTING
POWER OF MEMBERS. EACH MEMBER HAS A CORRESPONDING NUMBER OF
VOTES, DE
-
PENDING ON ITS CAPITAL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BANK.

CHANCE FOR SINCERITY

IF CHINA WANTS TO APPLY, IT MUST ALSO STATE OFFICIALLY WHETHER IT
WANTS TO BE A DONOR OR A BORROWER.

JAPAN, THE BIGGEST SUBSCRIBER TO THE BANK ALONG WITH THE UNITED
STATES, HAS INDICATED INTEREST IN THE POSSIBLE MEMBERSHIP NOT ONLY OF
PEKING BUT ALSO MOSCOW, IN SUCH MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS AS THE
ADB DEDICATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF POOR ASIAN NATIONS.

" I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS TYPE OF ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING NATIONS
COULD BE DONE BEYOND IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES," SAID JAPANESE FINANCE
MINISTER KIICHI AICHI IN MANILA. FOR INSTANCE, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE T
HE
USSR OR THE PEOPLE' S REPUBLIC OF CHINA MOVE AWAY FROM SIMPLE
RHETORIC
AND SHOW IN PRACTICE THAT THEY WANT TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."
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US TREASURY UNDERSECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS PAUL A. VOLCKER
WAS NON- COMMITTAL, HOWEVER, ON CHINA' S MEMBERSHIP IN THE ADB. HE
TOLD
NEWSMEN:

" I THINK THAT IS A QUESTION DEYOND WHAT I CAN REALLY DISCUSS.
I THINK IT WILL TAKE US INTO A LITTLE LONGER PERSPECTIVE. WE ARE
CERTAINLY INCREASING CONTACTS WITH MAINLAND CHINA. WE LOOK TOWARD
AN INCREASE IN TRADE AND CERTAIN IMPLICATIONS MIGHT FLOW FROM THAT
WITHIN THAT PERIOD OF TIME BUT I THINK IT IS PREMATURE TO CONSIDER
THAT AT THE MOMENT." UNQUOTE
HAMILTON

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NMAFVVZCZ

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